

Thiel Men’s Volleyball – Undefeated Season – PAC Playoff Champions!

By: Jacob Walsh
Apr. 22, 2025: Thiel Men’s Volleyball completed their first season in the Presidents’ Athletic Conference with a dominant 14-0 undefeated season while capturing the conference's regular season and playoff championships. The Tomcats were crowned PAC regular season champions back on April 4th after beating Hiram to win every single conference match this season.



Thiel then rolled the winning mentality into the Inaugural PAC Championship Playoff Tournament for Men’s Volleyball. Thiel Men’s Volleyball faced off in the semi-final match at home against the Saint Vincent Bearcats on Thursday, April 10th. Thiel vanquished SVC in a dominant 3-0 sweep (25-19, 25-20, 25-18) to clinch their spot in the Inaugural PAC Championship Match. The win set the stage for Thiel to meet up with their Mercer County rival, Grove City, in the Championship Match. On Saturday, April 12th, the Tomcats hosted Grove City at Beeghly Gymnasium on Maenpa Court.

At home, in front of a large crowd of fans, the Thiel College Tomcats Men’s Volleyball Team capped off their inaugural PAC season as undefeated Regular Season Champions and PAC Playoff Champions. With the win, Thiel set the record for wins (22) and win streak (15) in program history. The Tomcats were also undefeated at home this season, going 9-0. In the championship match, Thiel continued their dominant performance, sweeping the Wolverines...

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Opinion: The Death of Democracy Begins with Journalism

By: Hannah Stoughton
April 2025: It is undeniable that the American attitude towards media, particularly journalists and news broadcasters, has been less favorable over the last few decades. The percentage of Americans who find themselves having a great deal or fair amount of trust in mass media fell to its lowest percentage in 2024, with just 31% of Gallup poll respondents selecting this option. More people are turning away from mass media, with 36% having no trust at all that the media is accurately and fairly reporting the happenings in the United States. Between the physical advancements of media broadcasting (satellites, live coverage, and the urgency to be the first on a developing scene rather than a timely full story), the ability for people to spread information (and therefore misinformation) through the internet in the 1990s, and the birth of social media in the 2000s, news media has changed, and so has the trust in sources. Now, our governmental functions and official positions are released to the public via social media, as Truth Social has become the talking stick of President Donald Trump. President Trump ran his 2024 campaign on the idea that all of the news against him was fake, thus he and his supporters were the only ones attuned to the truth and they knew how to deliver it to...

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Senior Spotlight: Hannah Stoughton

By: Colin Schroyer
April 22, 2025: As the semester comes to an end, the Thielensian is proud to recognize the last of our graduating seniors, our Co-Editor-in-Chief and Webmaster, Hannah Stoughton! Stoughton is an English major from Apollo, Pa., who joined the Thielensian during her first year here at Thiel, but her involvement in journalism goes back even further. Though she was intermittently involved in her high school’s newspaper, she became seriously involved during her senior year of high school. When she came to Thiel, she needed an on-campus job, and the Thielensian was right up her alley. “I knew that there would be good experience in... writing for a newspaper,” Stoughton shared in an interview. As a staff writer, she began with sports articles and miscellaneous topics before quickly becoming the Thielensian’s webmaster, a position she has held for three years. Additionally, she also became the co-editor-in-chief alongside Jacob Walsh, which has been a fulfilling experience for her, though she had never thought she’d be in such a position when she started out. “As I started working with the advisor more,” she stated, citing Professor and Thielensian advisor Matthew Humphrey, “I kind of realized that there was a really good possibility I could at least fill some kind of leadership position.” Stoughton is proud of the positive changes she has seen in the Thielensian and on campus since she and Walsh took on their new leadership position, sharing, “I see more people with newspapers in their hands this year than I ever have before on campus.” Her biggest spark of passion has been her growing interest in politics. During her time at the Thielensian, Stoughton has become the primary political writer; though she concedes that the research process can be difficult and taxing, as she sifts through many sources with biases on both sides of the political spectrum in order to provide the most objective news possible, these articles are some of her favorites and can be very rewarding, especially for the good they bring: “We deserve to know what is happening in our country... it has become very difficult to find unbiased, ethically sourced news, and so that’s something that I wanted to be able to provide.” As she steps down from this position, Stoughton hopes...

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Thiel Holds its Spring 2025 Scholarship & Arts Symposium

By: Robert Doyle
Apr. 25, 2025: Thiel College celebrates research and learning with student thesis presentations, keynote speakers, artwork, and musical and theatrical performances. Thiel College celebrated its students’ academic accomplishments where over 10 students gave their Dietrich Honors Institute (DHI) senior thesis presentations, more than 20 gave oral presentations over research they conducted, Physician Assistant graduate students’ papers were displayed, and student



DHI Senior Thesis Cohort.

performances that included choir...

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Thiel College Spring Sports Recap

By: Ben Collins

Apr. 22, 2025: With the spring semester coming to a close, the Thiel Athletics spring sports seasons are also coming to a close. This spring has seen many highlights in sports on campus, and more good things are to be expected.

The Men’s Volleyball team completed their best season in program history, finishing the season with a 22-6 record and undefeated in conference play, clinching the conference regular season title. Men’s Volleyball then got the #1 seed in the inaugural Presidents’ Athletic Conference Men’s Volleyball Playoff Tournament and swept both #5 seed St. Vincent in the semi-final and #2 seed Grove City in the championship, 3-0, to win the conference playoff title. The Conference title also gave the Men’s Volleyball an automatic bid into the NCAA Division III Men’s Volleyball National Tournament. Thiel Men’s Volleyball took on St. Joseph of Long Island (NY) in the play-in round of the national tournament, but would fall three sets to one in the match. The Men’s Volleyball team was led by Ezra Oesterling, Kaleb Proudfoot, and Ben Lowell this season, all of whom received first team all PAC honors.

The Thiel Baseball team has had a very solid season so far. The baseball team boasts an overall record of 12-19 and a conference record of 8-6, good enough for



Thiel Men’s Volleyball – Undefeated Season – PAC Playoff Champions!

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...three sets to none (25-20, 25-17, 25-16). Thiel also punched their ticket to their first-ever NCAA Division III Men’s Volleyball Tournament appearance. Through selection on Monday, April 14th, Thiel (22-6) was placed into a play-in match against Saint Joseph’s Long Island (22-8) at Southern Virginia University on April 17th. The Tomcats came up short against S.J.L.I three sets to one in the play-in match, but the loss does not take away from the massive accomplishments achieved by the program this season.

PAC Championship Match Statistics

Thiel hit .419 in the match while holding Grove City to .193. The Tomcats also were favored in digs (28-25), with senior libero David Gonzalez adding four himself. Freshman Phenom Ezra Oesterling captured 16 kills, two aces, and one block, all in the process of tallying his 400th kill of the season. Junior Kaleb Proudfoot had 10 kills with three blocks. Senior Jake Dies chipped in with eight kills, one ace, and

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4th place in the conference standings. The Thiel baseball team was picked to finish 7th in the preseason poll, but thanks to a sweep of Chatham on Friday, April 18th, the baseball team is riding high with momentum. The Thiel baseball team has been led by great hitting by Nathan Prunty and the PAC homerun leader Calvin Cackowski, centerfielder Colton Brightwell has been fantastic in the outfield, and the infield has found its footing after a slow start with Max Bihler, Cole Sherwin, Fletcher Hindman, and Ethan Bintrim. The pitching has been led by Alec Katon, Nate Lucas, and Brady Rzodkiewicz. Katon recently eclipsed 200 career strikeouts and is striving for the all-time career record. The baseball team has 6 more conference games remaining and will be in action on Wednesday, April 23rd at Westminster before returning home on Saturday, April 26th against Grove City.

Thiel Softball currently sits at .500 with a 14-14 record on the season and a PAC record of 8-8. Softball is currently 7th in the conference, half a game out of playoff contention. The Softball team has four more conference games remaining with Westminster on Wednesday, April 23rd, and Chatham on Saturday, April 26th. Softball has been led by Kayley Risser, Mackenzie Herman, and Kylie Hied in hitting, and Becca Landis on the mound, who has 110 Strikeouts on the season.

Men’s Lacrosse currently sits at 1-12 on the season with 2 games remaining and their final home game on Wednesday, April 23rd at 4 pm. Zach Melin leads Men’s Lacrosse with 35 points, and Thadd Bell with 32 points. Defensively, the Men’s Lacrosse team is led by goalkeeper Ethan Narby with 282 saves.

The Women’s Lacrosse team has a 10-3 record and a PAC mark of 4-3, which has given the team a berth in the PAC playoffs. The Women’s Team currently sits in fifth place in the conference. The team has two home games remaining: Tuesday, April 22nd, against Franciscan and Saturday, April 26th, against Grove City. Ashlyn Wightman has scored 116 points, and Madison Liggett has made 145 saves.

Spring Sports are coming down to the wire, and 3 teams are still in conference playoff contention and can make some deep runs in the conference tournament.

four blocks. Junior Will Zimmerman added five kills, with one ace and one block.

2025 Presidents’ Athletic Conference (PAC) All-Tournament Team

Most Outstanding Player – Senior Jake Dies

Thiel Members – Senior Jake Dies, Freshman Ezra Oesterling, Junior Kaleb Proudfoot

2025 Presidents’ Athletic Conference (PAC) All-Conference Team

Thiel Members – Head Coach Dylan Lasher: Coach of the Year. Freshman Ezra Oesterling: Player of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, and First Team. Junior Kaleb Proudfoot: First Team. Sophomore Ben Lowell: First



Team. Senior Jake Dies: Honorable Mention. Senior David Gonzalez: Honorable Mention. Sophomore Bryce Lizanich: Honorable Mention.

The Thielensian congratulates the 2025 PAC Men’s Volleyball regular season and playoff champion, Thiel College Tomcats! Visit The Thielensian’s website to view championship post-game video interviews.

Thiel Holds its Spring 2025 Scholarship & Arts Symposium

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...band, and theatrical.

The DHI presentations were 20 minutes long, and were on a myriad of different subjects, ranging from Jacara Green’s presentation on how hair can impact one’s identity and self-esteem, to Hannah Stoughton’s presentation on the implementation of Artificial Intelligence into literature, and how AI and human-authored literature both deserve their own space to work. I asked Stoughton about her thought process and how she settled on the topic of her thesis. She said, “I didn’t put a ton of thought to it before my class, it just came to me one day.” Students at Thiel must take two classes before their final semester at Thiel regarding their thesis, which is the class Stoughton is referring to. When I asked her how what it was like presenting her thesis Stoughton remarked, “It was really nerve wracking, there was a room full of people!” Regarding the positive reception

“It was very motivational for me because I want to continue this into graduate school. Everyone seemed really interested and were asking me questions about it... I loved presenting it.” The oral presentations were also 20 minutes long and had a wide range of topics, from a study of the genetics of working dog breeds by Emily Reed to the effect that bacteriophages had on Mycobacterium smegmatis by Joseph King. These presentations, along with the others, included a process of conducting research and studying the effects of the research. There were digital posters from students in the departments of political science, exercise science, neuroscience, and criminal justice. These posters were presented by students of all classes, including students in the class of 2028. Graduate students who are in the PA program had their research papers on display, with the topics researching sleep deprivation,

of her physical activity, drug abuse, thesis, and alcohol abuse. They were on display from 11-12 in the Pedas Building.

There were multiple performances by Thiel students throughout the day. At 8:45 AM, the Thiel Choir put on a performance after President Traverso’s opening remarks. The Thiel band quintet then performed in the café during the symposium’s lunch break. The quintet is composed of trumpet player Jacob Hoffman 28’, Colton Scales 27’ who played the French horn, Kayden Moroney 28’, a trombone player; tuba player Riley Smith 26’, and Dr. Scott DiTullio, Thiel’s band director and another trumpet player. The theater performances took place from 1:30-2 PM, and involved five students, two scenes with two actors, and a monologue from one student. Ticey Carr 28’ and George Green 28’ performed a scene together, along with Charlee May 25’ and Savanna Welch 25’. Christina Newman 25’ performed a monologue to finish out the day.

Looking For an On-Campus Job? Look No Further!

The Thielensian is looking to replace our three graduating seniors with students who have a passion for truth, journalism, and writing. Over the last few years, the staff has maintained a healthy balance of inter/national affairs and Thiel College happenings for our article selections, and we seek to find people interested in continuing this legacy. New hires can expect leadership positions to become available quickly upon hiring, and it is a paid position!

- Positions opening:
- Staff Writer
- Copy Editor
- SGA Representative

For information on expectations of the job and the department itself, contact Matthew Humphrey (mhumphrey@thiel.edu) or Colin Schroyer (CSchr014@thiel.edu) TODAY!

Murder Me Always Kills It on Campus!

By: Colin Schroyer

April 24, 2025: During the beginning of April, the Thiel Players put on a production of Lee Mueller’s Murder Me Always, which delighted the community and made a big impact with an exciting dinner theatre show. On April 4, 5, 11, and 12, the Thiel Theatre took to the Lutheran Heritage Room of the Howard Miller Student Center for their production of Murder Me Always, a murder mystery within a murder mystery, in which the Thiel Players took on the role of actors, cast, and crew of the Mediocre Players production of

their own murder mystery... also called “Murder Me Always.” Under the direction of Dr. Jessica Rogers, with student Tristan Mlynarek as the assistant director, the When Mediocre Players’ “assistant director” Reginald Sterling Blackwood III (played by Rowan Thomas) is shot during the performance, the lights come on as the drama scene turns into a crime scene. [Held in the Lutheran Heritage Room,] the dinner portion of the dinner theatre experience was provided by AVI Foodsystems, featuring a salad appetizer, entrée, and dessert. Though the ad-

dition of a dinner raised the price of admission compared to traditional Thiel Players’ shows, the meal helped to set the atmosphere and allow the audience to enjoy a fantastic meal. In a series of double-roles, portraying both the Mediocre Players and their characters within their production, the cast included Riley Smith, LaShawn Williams, Connor Paolucci, Laci McCloe, Savanna Welch, Bailey Stilts, and George Green. In additional roles, Al Bach played stage manager Trixie Dixie, Adrianna Rossi portrayed detective Jo Mamet, and Charlee May was the Cabbie.

For the Thiel Players, the show was a massive success, selling out every single showing they held over the two weekends. Students, families, and community members all came to support the production. Murder Me Always was enjoyed by all, audience and actors alike.

“It was a really good experience, I had a lot of fun,” recalled senior Savanna Welch, who played Dolores Dumphey in the show. “It was an experience... 10 out of 10, would do it again.” One of the challenges faced by the actors was adjusting to the Lutheran Heritage Room as their



Cast of Murder Me Always.

stage. In addition to getting used to the new location, they had another matter to deal with. “One with we struggled with is the acoustics,” shared Welch. “It was really weird for us, because we thought we were talking loud enough, but we weren’t... we kept getting yelled at to talk louder.” Welch was happy to hear about the positive reception the production received, saying, “It definitely made the cast feel good knowing that we did a good job.” Upcoming productions by the Thiel Players include Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors in the Fall of 2025 and an adaptation of William Shakespeare’s Much Ado About Nothing in Spring 2026.

Cast of Murder Me Always.



Opinion: The Death of Democracy Begins with Journalism

mense passion. I write this piece with my last opportunity as a writer and Co-Editor-in-Chief to discuss the terrifying impact of today’s administration on journalism. If we continue to allow them to diminish our press, devalue our journalistic institutions, and erase the history and existence of dissents and truths from honest media, we face a situation that many could only begin to imagine. Without journalism, democracy crumbles, as anything will become truth under an administration that has historically been unable to be consistently truthful.

(cont. from pg. 1) ...America. Now, journalists are feeling silenced and threatened by the Trump Administration, particularly after the unjust banning of Associated Press from the White House. Not only was this a direct stance against our constitutionally protected right to press, it clues Americans into an important warning sign of authoritarian descent: censorship. It reflects in the Gallup polls that both years in which Pres-

ident Trump was elected also had the lowest numbers of trust in media in all of Gallup history. This is not a coincidence; *Trump is leveraging the American mistrust in media and furthering the divide before censoring Americans who do not fit the mold in an attempt to create a “unified ideology” of control.* As I have worked on this paper throughout the last four years, my dedication to the truth and informing the public has become an im-

Senior Spotlight: Hannah Stoughton

(cont. from pg. 1) ...that the Thielensian can be an accurate source of information on things that matter — to students, to U.S. citizens, to all people. Stoughton is very grateful for her experience and for what she has gained during her time with the Thielensian. Her experience allowed her an opportunity to extend her skills beyond her major. “It’s been very much an interdisciplinary balance for me,” she expressed, noting how she could tap into creative elements of both journalism and literature. Furthermore, this experience has helped her grow in her personal and professional life, helping to instill confidence in her leadership and her capability to creative positive change.

Outside of her many duties for the Thielensian, Stoughton is both a bookworm and a gym rat, as she enjoys both reading and working out. She likes writing poetry and has recently been getting more involved in her community and political activism.

After her graduation from Thiel College, Stoughton will attend the University of Wyoming to earn her master’s degree in English and subsequently begin her professional career, with hopes of moving to Vermont.

The Thielensian congratulates Hannah Stoughton on all she has done and wishes her all the best in her future endeavors. Congratulations to the Thielensian’s class of 2025 graduates!

Finals Schedule!

Classes beginning at:	Final Exam Date:	Final Exam Time:
8:00 a.m. on Mon, Wed, Fri	Monday, May 5	8:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
9:00 a.m. on Mon, Wed, Fri	Wednesday, May 7	8:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
10:00 a.m. on Mon, Wed, Fri	Monday, May 5	10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
11:00 a.m. on Mon, Wed, Fri	Tuesday, May 6	10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
12:00 p.m. on Mon, Wed, Fri	Monday, May 5	12:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.
1:00 p.m. on Mon, Wed, Fri	Wednesday, May 7	12:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.
2:00 p.m. on Mon, Wed, Fri	Monday, May 5	2:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.
3:00 p.m. on Mon, Wed, Fri	Tuesday, May 6	2:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.
8:30 a.m. on Tues, Thurs	Tuesday, May 6	8:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
10:00 a.m. on Tues, Thurs	Wednesday, May 7	10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
1:00 p.m. on Tues, Thurs	Tuesday, May 6	12:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.
2:30 p.m. on Tues, Thurs	Wednesday, May 7	2:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.
Evening Classes on Mon	Monday, May 5	7:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.
Evening Classes on Tues/Thurs	Tuesday, May 6	7:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.
Evening Classes on Wed	Wednesday, May 7	7:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.
CHEM 160, Section 1	Wednesday, May 7	4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
CHEM 160, Section 2	Monday, May 5	4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
CHEM 370, Section 1	Monday, May 5	2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Exams for TBA Classes	Mon/Tue/Wed, May 5-7	4:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

A Message From Our Seniors

By: Hannah Stoughton, Jacob Walsh, & Jason Walsh II
April 2025: After a long four years of commitment to the advancement of this newspaper, it is time for us to say goodbye, and we have some closing remarks.
On May 10th, 2025, three of our four long-term employees will walk the stage for the receiving of our undergraduate degrees, and we leave this paper in the hands of our last staff member, **Colin Schroyer**. Colin has been working closely with us to ensure a smooth transi-

tion for both readership pleasure and staff ease, and we have never felt more confident in someone as we do now. Colin, we thank you deeply for allowing us to leave this organization and work with comfort and ease of mind, and we are so proud of the work you have already done. We are so excited to see what you do and how your creative visions will come to life.
We also would like to give a message to our incredible faculty advisor, **Matthew Humphrey**. Professor Humphrey has been a breath of fresh air for us on campus, providing honest feedback and motivation when the desire to be productive was at an all-time low for any one of us. He cares immensely for his students and works tirelessly to ensure the success and happiness of every one that he can, and his work does not go unnoticed, particularly by his advisees. Humphrey, thank you for trusting us and help-

ing us in a variety of manners, personal, academic, and professional. We are bettered people having known you and worked under your brilliance, and we will miss you so much. Thank you for everything you have done.
Our last message goes to **you, our loyal reader**. We would not have been as motivated to continue this paper or the work we’ve done without seeing so many of you interact with our projects. We have received criticism, positive feedback and requests that have made The Thielensian better under our watch, and we thank you for continuing to support us!
Goodbyes are often one of the most bittersweet moments in life, and we three are tasting each and every one of those tastes in our retirement from undergraduate involvement. We look forward to seeing the changes made for campus by or successors, and we know that it will be good. Farewell, our friends, and as always, Roll Cats!

THIELENSIAN STAFF
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